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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /069 W
----------025483 191907Z /46
R 180550Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7509

C O N F I D EN T I A L NAIROBI 7565

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, KE
SUBJ: LUO MP SUSPENDED FROM PARLIAMENT

REF: NAIROBI 7432

1. LUO MP ONYANGO MIDIKA WAS SUSPENDED FROM PARLIAMENT FOR THREE DAYS BY THE SPEAKER FOR ALLEGEDLY MISLEADING HOUSE DURING MAY 12 DEBATE. DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS TAKEN MAY 16, AND APPROVED BY SHOW OF HANDS SAME DAY.

2. INCIDENT WHICH PROVOKED SUSPENSION AROSE FROM FORMAL QUESTION SUBMITTED BY MIDIKA TO ELICIT RESPONSE FROM MINISTER OF STATE KOINANGE AS TO WHETHER KOINANGE WOULD CONSIDER TRANSFERRING NYANIA PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER ISIAH CHELUGET BECAUSE HIS (CHELUGET'S) RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL PUPULATION HAD DETERIORATED (SEE PARA 6 REFTEL). MIDIKA'S QUESTION APPEARED IN ORDER PAPER FOR MAY 12 SESSION. WHEN TIME CAME FOR OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO QUESTION DEPUTY SPEAKER REFUSED TO PERMIT DEBATE ON GROUNDS THAT MIDIKA HAD WITHDRAWN QUESTION. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION MIDIKA TOLD PARLIAMENT HE HAD RAISED MATTER PRIVATELY WITH SPEAKER (NOT THEN IN CHAMBER). THIS TURNED OUT TO BE FALSE, AND WAS PROXIMATE GROUNDS FOR HIS 3 DAY SUSPENSION.

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3. INDEED, MIDIKA HAD WITHDRAWN QUESTION IN FORMAL LETTER TO DEPUTY SPEAKER. CHELUGET ISSUE IS A HOT ONE AMONG LUOS. CHELUGET IS SEEN BY MOST LUO POLITICIANS AS VP PRESIDENT MOI'S MAN IN NYANGA PROVINCE AND MOI IS REGARDED AS THE PRIMARY LUO NEMISIS. BUT CHALLENGING A MAN LIKE CHELUGET IN PARLIAMENT, AS MIDIKA'S QUESTION SOUGHT TO DO, IS RISKY BUSINESS. MIDIKA TOLD EMBOFFS MAY 17 THAT HE WITHDREW QUESTION WHEN ASSISTANT

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MINISTER OF STATE WARIITHI TIPPED HIM OFF AS TO GOVERNMENT'S
PREPARED ANSWER. ANSWER WOULD HAVE EXCORIATED MIDIKA
FOR CASTING ASPERSIONS ON PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S APPOINTEES
AND WOULD HAVE IMPLIED MIDIKA WAS DISLOYAL TO PRESIDENT.
THAT IN KENYAN POLITICS IS SOMETHING TO BE AVOIDED.

4. DESPITE SUSPENSION MIDIKA PROBABLY WILL EMERGE AHEAD
POLITICALLY. HE SAID FACT THAT HE WAS ABLE TO FIND WAY TO
GIVE ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY TO CHELUGET'S UNPOPULARITY IN NYANZA
WILL BE WORTH VOTES IN HIS CONSTITUENCY AT 1979 ELECTIONS.
OTHER MPS WITH WHOM EMBOFFS SPOKE MAY 17 DESCRIBED MIDIKA AS
INDIVIDUAL WHOSE POPULARITY AMONG BACKBENCHERS IN PARLIAMENT
WAS INCREASING.

5. MIDIKA SCHEDULED VISIT US IN CONNECTION WITH ACYPL PROGRAM
IN JUNE.
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Message Attributes

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